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To ensure access to high-quality, patient-centered, cost-effective health care to Los Angeles County residents through direct services at DHS facilities and through collaboration with community and university partners.



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PROVIDER INFORMATION NOTICE

PIN: 16 – 02 (**Revised**)

TITLE: Age Eligibility Requirements for the MHLA Program

DATE: May 3, 2016 (Supersedes PIN 16-02 dated April 18, 2016)

This PIN is revised in order to comply with a Board of Supervisor's motion passed on May 3, 2016.

Background

In June 2015, Senate Bill (SB) 75 was signed by the Governor which provides the state Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) with the authority to make available full scope Medi-Cal benefits to children under the age 19, up to 266% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), and who do not meet satisfactory immigration status, but who otherwise meet all other eligibility requirements for Medi-Cal. SB 4 by Senator Lara (known as the "Health4All" bill) was signed by the Governor in October 2015 and included implementation instructions for SB 75.

It is anticipated that SB 75 will be implemented on May 1, 2016. DHCS indicates that CalHEERS and the County SAWS systems will be ready to enroll children into full scope Medi-Cal beginning on May 16, 2016, with a coverage effective date of May 1, 2016. Medi-Cal application channels, processes and documentation requirements will not change for this population – the CalHEERS and SAWS systems will instead be programmed to disposition these children as full scope, rather than restricted scope, eligible.

As part of this transition, there are two populations of children who will be affected.

- **Transition population:** Eligible individuals under age 19 who are enrolled in restricted scope Medi-Cal at the time of the transition will be transitioned to full scope aid codes on May 16, 2016; no new application will be needed from the beneficiary.
- **New enrollee population:** Individuals under the age of 19 who are not enrolled in restricted scope Medi-Cal will need to go through the regular Medi-Cal application process for enrollment after May 16, 2016.

In anticipation of SB 75 implementation, Los Angeles County Departments, clinic providers and community-based organizations are strongly encouraging parents and guardians to enroll children into restricted scope Medi-Cal.

The process for requesting for Continuity of Care and Medical Exemptions will be the same for this population as for any other Medi-Cal beneficiary.

Impact to My Health LA (MHLA) Providers and Patients

There are approximately 10,000 children currently enrolled in My Health LA (MHLA) who will be newly eligible for Medi-Cal under SB 75. These children will be disenrolled once it has been determined by DHS that they have full-scope Medi-Cal, or by December 31, 2016, whichever is sooner.

Once an individual receives full scope Medi-Cal, they also obtain access to Denti-Cal services such as dental exams, x-rays, cleanings, fillings, and more. Therefore, effective June 1, 2016, MHLA Dental Ability-To-Pay applications will only be accepted for individuals 19 years and older. Existing Dental Patients who do not have full-scope Medi-Cal will be permitted to continue in the MHLA Dental Program until it has been determined by DHS that they have full-scope Medi-Cal, or by December 31, 2016, whichever is sooner. Per existing MHLA dental billing protocols, MHLA dental claims must be submitted to AIA no later than sixty (60) days after the service date.

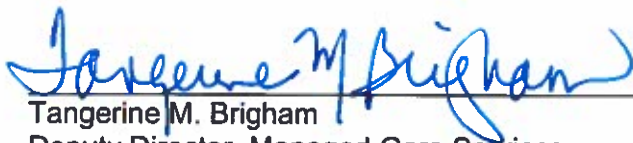
Effective May 26, 2016 the One-E-App system will no longer approve MHLA applications for individuals under the age of 19. However, clinics should enroll any new patients who are under the age of 19 into Medi-Cal, not MHLA, after May 16, 2016.

The MHLA program has begun communicating to families about this transition through a featured story on this topic in the MHLA Participant Newsletter (called My Healthy News)

In this notice, families were encouraged to talk to their medical home clinics if they have questions about this transition and were given the County Department of Public and Social Services (DPSS) phone number if they have questions about the Medi-Cal status of their child(ren).

If DHCS changes the implementation date for SB 75 as noted above, then DHS will issue a revised PIN with updated information.

If you have any questions about this PIN, please contact your Program Advocate.



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